

LITURGY PREPARATION FOR THE

Penitential Rite

(for Baptized Candidates only)

(see RCIA 459ff)

Questions to Prepare for the Rite

BEFORE THE RITE

1. How will the Penitential Rite be celebrated? As a Liturgy of the Word or at a Mass?

2. How will you inform the parish that the Penitential Rite will be taking place?

Announcements could be made for several weeks before the Rite at all Masses and communicated in other ways (e.g., in the bulletin, on a website, at parish meetings, etc.). On the day of the Rite, the coordinator or celebrant could make a brief announcement before the Rite begins.

3. Where will the candidates and their sponsors be seated?

LITURGY OF THE WORD

4. What readings will be used?

If this Rite takes place on the 2nd Sunday of Lent, the readings for that Sunday (Year A, B, or C) are used. If the Rite takes place at another time, these or other readings may be used.

INVITATION TO SILENT PRAYER

5. Where will the candidates stand for the Rite?

In their pews? At the front of the church? Down the center aisle?

6. What liturgical actions, if any, will you incorporate into the Rite?

Will the candidates and their sponsors remain in their pews or go to another location in the church? Will they kneel or stand with bowed heads (see RCIA 468)?

7. Will you compose a text for the celebrant to use to address the assembly and candidates?

Though the Rite directs that this take place, no specific text is given (see RCIA 468).

8. How long will the celebrant allow for silent prayer?

INTERCESSIONS FOR THE CANDIDATES

9. Will you write any intercessions that take into account the candidates' specific needs and circumstances?

If so, invite the candidates to write down specific needs at a time of reflection and prayer before the Rite, then craft these needs into intercessions for this Rite.

10. How and when will the intercessions be presented?

The intercessions for the candidates may be offered, then additional general intercessions may be offered after the Rite is concluded. Or all may be offered at this time.

PRAYER OVER THE CANDIDATES

11. Which option will you use for the Prayer over the Candidates, "A" or "B"?

The "A" option incorporates images from the Transfiguration Gospel reading.

12. How and where will the laying on of hands take place?

Will the candidates and their sponsors come to the celebrant or will he go to them?

13. Will you sing a psalm to conclude the Rite?

See the final rubric of RCIA 470 for suggestions.

14. If the elect are present, will they be dismissed? Will the candidates be invited to join them?

Where will they go? Who will lead them in reflecting on this Rite?

Checklist

- Reserved pews
- Intercessions for the lector
- Script for presider, musicians, etc.
- Worship aid for the congregation (handout explaining the Rite and/or with desired liturgical responses)